ASL

Australian Society for Limnology Inc.

NEWSLETTER

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC.

The Australian Society for Limnology Inc. (ASL) is an Australian-based scientific society whose focus is the study and management of inland waters. The ASL was established in 1961, and has a current membership of over 650 researchers, managers, engineers, teachers and tertiary level students from all states and territories. Members have a strong professional interest in inland aquatic issues, including the maintenance of biodiversity, the maintenance and/or restoration of water quality, and the wise use of aquatic resources. The Society also has a strong interest in fostering the scientific and intellectual development of tertiary students.

The Society includes members working in government agencies, tertiary institutions and many industries related to aquatic resources. Through their daily activities, members have contact with local communities and are in a sound position to interpret and advise on inland water issues. The Society has a substantial knowledge base, and has assumed a responsibility to ensure that this is available to those who manage inland waters.

Accordingly, the charter of the ASL is to further our understanding of Australia's inland waters and to promote their wise use and sustainable management. In this manner we will contribute to the continued existence of this valued resource and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for all Australians. The ASL regularly produces a newsletter with notes on limnological activities, articles of interest, book reviews and announcements of upcoming events likely to be of interest to Members.

ASL Home Page - http://www.asl.org.au/

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Well it has been a very eventful year to date, with fires in the southeast and floods in the northeast – I hope that all ASL members and their loved ones are safe and well. It is with obvious sadness that we record the tragedy of the bushfires in Victoria and wish all those affected all the very best.

On an exciting note, this edition contains the first call for abstracts for this year's ASL Congress, to be held in Alice Springs. The theme "*water in a dry land: sustaining arid zone rivers and wetlands*" will bring together scientists and managers from across Australia. The organizing committee has an interesting program planned, and I hope to see a great many of you there.

Please note the information on membership and dues later on in the newsletter (p34) – it would be great to see our Society growing again and with an exciting conference, water much in the news and an influx of new students around the country now is the time. For all existing members, let's be nice to Sabine and get our dues in order before the conference.

This edition is our traditional 'what(!!) I need to write something for the newsletter? but I just did for the Xmas edition' edition. So we are a bit thin on the news and views. However I am particularly pleased to see Tim Doeg in good form in Members Musings. We note the passing of Noel Hynes and have the first of our ASL Archives stories... hope you can find the time to have a good look.

The deadline for submissions to the next issue is 15th June 2009.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

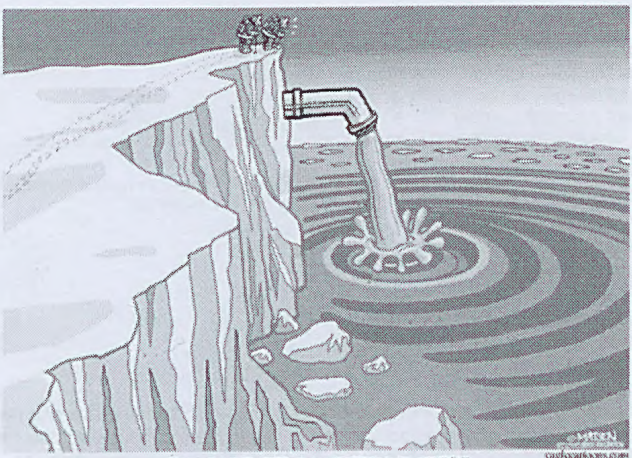
In this newsletter you will find the first call for papers for the 48th Annual Congress of ASL to be held in Alice Springs from the 29th of September until the 2nd of October. The theme of the Congress year is "Water in a dry Land; Sustaining Arid Zone Rivers and Wetlands. Jayne, Jenny, the local organising Committee and ASN Events have already put a lot of work into preparing for this congress. Given the unique location and the important theme of the Congress I would encourage as many people as possible to attend.

On another front, Patrick Laceby (Student Rep on the Executive) and I will be representing ASL at Science Meets Parliament on the 17th and 18th of March. This represents an opportunity to put the Society in front of our policy makers. At the last ASL executive the following key areas were identified as points we needed to make:

- developing a cohesive funding for freshwater research,
- the paucity of long term research opportunities in this country,
- the need for truly multidisciplinary research and
- the absence of clear career paths for new graduates (particularly PhDs).

However, this is no where near complete or comprehensive, nor does it reflect the total scope of ASL. I would like to take this opportunity to canvass the ASL membership to see what they think are the important issues that ASL should be advancing, both through opportunities like Science meets Parliament, but also through our web site, which is currently undergoing a re-vamp. Please send any thoughts to me - Darren.Baldwin@CSIRO.au

Darren Baldwin



"HOW ON EARTH DO WE TURN IT OFF?"

Call for papers: ASL CONGRESS 2009

2009 ASL CONGRESS

Alice Springs Convention Centre

28 September – 2nd October 2009

The call for papers and registration for the 2009 ASL Congress is now open.

The theme of the congress is ***Water in a dry land: sustaining arid zone rivers and wetlands.***

Abstract Submission: In addition to papers on this theme, all papers (oral or poster) on any aspects of research, management, policy or planning, related to inland waters, will be considered. A total of 20 minutes (including questions) is available for oral papers. Abstracts for both oral and poster papers should not exceed 300 words and must be submitted to the ASL website.
For the first time the Congress will include Special Sessions. These are sessions nominated and organised by volunteer convenors, rather than the conference organisers. Sessions will consist of a group of papers on a common topic. Convenors are invited to email their topic and a list of potential presenters to **Jenny Davis** or **Jayne Brim Box** before May 31, 2009.
To submit your abstract please click here.

Registration: The online registration system is now open. See the ASL website for further details.

If you are a current financial member (2009 - 2010) of the ASL then please note this on the first page of registration (a tick box stating "Society member")
This will then take you to the member's registration rates.
If you are not a current member then you have two options.
Option 1 - register as a non-member and this will automatically renew your membership to be financial (2009 - 2010).
Option 2 - renew your ASL membership online here and then register for the conference as a member.

All full conference registration fees include the following
All delegate material
Welcome function
Tuesday night BBQ Dinner
Lunch daily
Morning and afternoon tea daily

The official ASL conference dinner ticket is an additional $130 and this can be purchased when you register online. Any additional tickets can also be purchased by contacting the secretariat at any stage leading up to the conference start.

Accommodation:
The conference organisers have secured rates at a few different hotels in Alice

Springs. You can book your accommodation during the online regsitration process. For further details and accommodation options please refer to the website.

Lake Eyre Basin Group
A day registration on the Tuesday is available for the Lake Eyre Basin Group. This registration includes the Tuesday sessions, morning tea/lunch/afternoon tea, the BBQ dinner and welcome function.
You can book this registration using the online system.

This online system is quite self explanatory but if you have any issues then please don't hesitate to contact the conference secretariat.

Sponsorship/Trade
There are also opportunities and benefits available for your organisation to sponsor elements of this ground breaking conference. There has been strong interest in sponsorship and already Platinum, Silver and Student sponsorships have been reserved. If your organisation wishes to be included, please contact Steve Robin sr@asnevents.net.au +61 3 59 832 400 or go to www.asl.org.au

Thank you and we look forward to your involvement in the ASL 2009 congress.

Krista Byrne - ASN Events Pty Ltd
ASL 2009 Congress secretariat

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS

Students who have been student members of ASL for 6 months or more are eligible to apply for contributions to their conference travel via the **ASL Travel Awards**. Details of the application process will be made available shortly.

If you are a student and would like to have the opportunity to apply for ASL Travel Awards you will have had to joined the society by the 28th March.

ASL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A HISTORY OF ASL – CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

A group of ASLers (Andrew Boulton, Ian Bayly, Fiona Mackenzie-Smith, John Harris and Richard Marchant) are compiling a history of ASL for ultimate publication in some form in 2012 to coincide with the Society's 50th anniversary. So far, the lion's share of the work has been done by Ian Bayly and Alan Weatherley to produce text on the first decade of the Society. The authors would now like to:

a) encourage comments and additions from the other members on this text to date,
and
b) solicit material (text and photographs) about people, events, meetings and themes that have been important in ASL since the early 1960s. They are hoping that the work by Ian and Alan will inspire contributions and plan to add bits as they go along.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: In this and upcoming editions of the ASL newsletter we will publish sections on the history of the society in a new section called 'ASL Archives' which will detail the history of the society. I hope that everyone will contribute to this section, and comment on the contributions.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE ASL MEDAL REGULATIONS

The ASL executive has changed two aspects of the current rules (revised in 1998 and published in ASL newsletter vol 36, number 2) for awarding medals. These concern the length of time a nomination is valid for and the requirement for the medal winner to publish their Hilary Jolly Memorial Lecture. The executive has decided that nominations should be valid for three years and that the requirement to publish the Hilary Jolly address should be abandoned.

Richard Marchant

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FASTS Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies

CONTINUING ACHIEVEMENTS

FASTS is Australia's peak science body, representing over 60 professional societies and 60,000 scientists. You are a member of FASTS through membership of your professional society. Our professional staff serve you, your society and the Australian scientific community in a range of ways, and our ongoing contributions to Australian science include:

- 'Science meets Parliament'—FASTS' annual flagship event, where more than 200 scientists have face-to-face meetings with politicians on key science issues
- Highlighting science with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet through the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC)
- Organising forums and workshops on key science issues
- Developing science policy at a high level and providing input to Parliamentary Committees, Government Departments and Government reviews and inquiries
- Assisting member societies to raise and develop issues, and
- Distributing information to member societies weekly, and receiving feedback.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008

- Forums on 'Rights and Obligations of Scientists and Researchers' and 'Supporting Risk-Aware Research'
- A national roadshow to gather inputs to FASTS' submission to the Cutler Review
- Submissions to reviews on Higher Education Research Training, Future Fellowships, Defence, Higher Education Endowment Fund, ERA journal ranking, Questacon, CRC
- Continuation of FASTS' successful request for release of ARC grants in early October
- FASTS' statement on Climate Change – reported in 145 media outlets
- FASTS' Taxonomy paper highlighting this endangered species at SmP 2008.

ONGOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS

In 2009 FASTS will:

- Hold 'Science meets Parliament' on 17/18 March – *contact FASTS to attend*
- Provide to Parliament examples of science success stories *from FASTS' members*
- Present 'On the Radar' briefings on upcoming issues in science that need to be addressed by government, industry and the media – *contact FASTS with your ideas*
- Contribute to the development of National Curricula in science and mathematics
- Investigate whether science graduates have sufficient industry-ready practical skills.

VALUE TO MEMBERS

In addition to our continuing and prospective activities we will:

- Establish an expert list of FASTS members for media commentary – *via your society*
- Hold a forum on Governance of Science – how can science self-organise better?

FASTS seeks your help through your member society to keep science at the forefront of the national agenda in these challenging times. For more information visit the FASTS' website:

www.fasts.org

Professor Ken Baldwin, President ***Bradley Smith, Executive Director***

Peter Cullen Postgraduate Scholarship

The NSW Government has developed a postgraduate scholarship in honour of the late Professor Peter Cullen AO FTSE.

The program is jointly funded by various New South Wales Government Water Agencies, including the Department of Water and Energy, Sydney Catchment Authority, State Water, Hunter Water and Sydney Water.
The aim of the scholarship is to:

* Improve our understanding of how rivers, groundwater, wetlands and estuaries function and respond to enhanced management
* Improve the linkages between water science and water management in NSW
* Provide research opportunities for water specialists in NSW.

Funds available:
A three year scholarship of up to $20,000 p.a. will be awarded each of the years 2009-2011.

Funds totalling $60,000 will be available to the successful student over a three year period, but with a sufficient prior written request the allocated funds could be extended to a fourth year.

The scholarship may form part of a stipend and/or support student research. The scholarship can be used to pay for equipment, field expenses, sample processing etc.

For further information see
http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au/about/scholarship_general_information.shtml

AUSRIVAS course now enrolling: Module 1 to start in July

The AUSRIVAS Online training course is offered twice a year by the eWater CRC and the University of Canberra. The course aims to teach the skills and knowledge needed to assess river health to an acceptable standard using the Australian River Assessment System (AUSRIVAS) methods. Those who complete its requirements successfully are eligible for accreditation from the relevant state or territory agency.

There are no prerequisites for this non-award course, other than registration and payment. The theoretical knowledge required to use AUSRIVAS for river health assessment can be learnt entirely online in four interactive modules that can be completed at you own pace over 12 weeks. A 4-day practical face-to-face workshop is offered as a fifth module, teaching the practical skills required. The workshop module is held in Canberra but would you like us to hold a workshop in your state? If there is sufficient demand from a group or agency we can arrange a workshop in any State or Territory.

The first module of the next AUSRIVAS Online course is scheduled in late July and is enrolling now! If you would like to enrol in the course or any individual module please contact Sue Nichols at sue.nichols@canberra.edu.au for more information or queries regarding a workshop outside the ACT.

http://ausrivas.canberra.edu.au/Bioassessment/Macroinvertebrates/Training/

It is also time to enrol in **Watercourses Online**!!
* Brush up your knowledge about the ecology of Australian river systems and how they are affected by catchment land-use and other human disturbance.
* Find out how to apply the national water quality monitoring guidelines to waterways, and for State of the Environment reporting.
* Watercourses Online is a growing set of online training courses, designed primarily to support personnel in water management, natural resources management, environmental education and ecological consulting.

The 3 courses currently offered are:
* Ecology and River Function
* Catchments: their Character, Waters & Chemical Composition
* Waterway Assessment

Find more details by following the links from:
http://freshwater.canberra.edu.au/WatercoursesOnline.nsf

Or contact:

Professor Richard Norris
phone 02 6201 2543
email richard.norris@canberra.edu.au

Sue Nichols
phone 02 6201 5408
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Professor William Maher (for Catchments module only)
phone 02 6201 2531
email bill.maher@canberra.edu.au

Australian Government | MURRAY–DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY

RIVER SCIENTISTS (ECOLOGY / HYDROLOGY/ BIOLOGY / GEOMORPHOLOGY)

Contractors (several positions)
3 to 6 year contract
35–50 days per year
Rate to be negotiated

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (the Authority) is a small independent Commonwealth Authority responsible for the integrated management of water resources in the Murray-Darling Basin.

MDBA's Sustainable Rivers Audit (SRA) was established in 2004 to provide regular and comprehensive assessments of the health of river ecosystems in the Murray-Darling Basin. The SRA program includes monitoring and assessments of fish, macroinvertebrates, hydrology, vegetation and physical form. Monitoring is carried out by State agencies and the MDBA Office, and the data are interpreted by an independent group of river scientists, called the Independent Sustainable Rivers Audit Group (ISRAG). ISRAG's SRA Report 1 was released in June 2008, and SRA Report 2 will be delivered in early 2011.

The Audit Group provides to the Murray–Darling Basin Authority and the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council annual reports on the progress of the SRA and triennial reports on the condition of Basin rivers. In addition to ensuring the independence of river health assessment reports, the Group also provides scientific leadership and guidance for the SRA Program, particularly with respect to experimental design, analysis and development. It will also play a key role in providing input into the development of the Basin Plan, and monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Basin Plan in delivering on its river health objectives.

Highly experienced and eminent individuals with a strong background in river science (ecology / biology / hydrology / geomorphology) and an appreciation of the issues involved in the management of natural resources in the Basin are encouraged to express an interest in becoming a member of the Independent Sustainable Rivers Audit Group.

Members will be appointed on a consultancy basis under a milestone-based contract for 3-6 years, involving approximately 35–50 days per year. Up to four appointments will be made, depending on the mix of skills of applicants. Successful candidates are not required to relocate to Canberra. However, as outlined in the Selection Criteria, they should be available to attend meetings and workshops in Canberra and other places in and around the Basin.

Applications for these positions close on 3 May 2009.

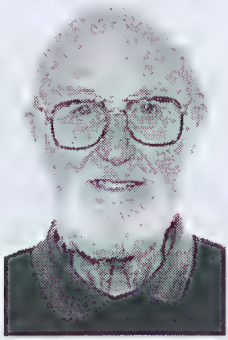
An information package, including Terms of Reference for ISRAG, Selection Criteria and the latest SRA reports, can be accessed from the MDBA website.

For more information on the SRA and the role of the Audit Group, please contact Dr Michael Wilson, Director Sustainable Rivers Audit, on 02 6279 0444.

For information on the MDBA, please visit our website.

OBITUARY: Dr Noel Hynes

Ed: Noel Hynes was well known to most stream people in Australia, having spent two sabbaticals here in the 1970s. He was awarded the ASL medal in 1984. The following obituary is an edited version (R.Marchant) of that published in the Toronto Globe and Mail.



Noel Hynes passed away peacefully at Manoir Lac Brome in Knowlton, Quebec, on Monday, March 3rd, 2009 at the age of 91.

Noel Hynes, was an internationally renowned freshwater biologist and Distinguished Emeritus Professor at the University of Waterloo. He graduated in biology from Imperial College in 1938 and obtained a Ph.D. from the University of London in 1941.

After a year in Trinidad, where he was sent by the British Colonial Office to learn about tropical biology, Dr. Hynes married Mary Hinks, and joined the locust-control program, run by the Colonial Office, in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. He and Mary remained in East Africa until 1946, returning to England, by then with two children, to take up a university lectureship in Liverpool. Their family was completed shortly thereafter with the birth of twins. At Liverpool University, Dr. Hynes established a research program studying the insect biology of streams. His observations of the effects of various kinds of pollutant on the insect ecology of streams led him to write The Biology of Polluted Waters (1960).

Dr. Hynes moved to Canada in 1964, to build a Department of Biology at the University of Waterloo. He established an active research program on the biology of running waters there. In 1971, he published The Ecology of Running Waters. The book included a comprehensive, critical review of the literature pertaining to streams, information on the physical and chemical characteristics of flowing waters, their plantlife, their benthos and their fish. It was regarded as the definitive textbook on river ecology. The book continues to be widely read and influential in the field, and was reprinted in 2001.

During the course of his career, Dr. Hynes published 190 papers, including two citation classics. His first publication was in 1940 and his last in 2008. He received honorary doctorates from the University of London, the University of New Brunswick and the University of Waterloo. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Dr. Hynes is commonly referred to as the father of modern stream ecology. He received a Centennial Medal from the Royal Society of Canada (1967) the Hilary Jolly Award from the Australian Limnological Society (1984) and the inaugural Award of Excellence from the North American Benthological Society (1988). In 1998 Dr. Hynes received the Naumann-Thienemann Medal, the highest award available to an aquatic biologist, by the Societas Internationalis Limnologiciae, for establishment of the field of lotic limnology as a major, rich and varied discipline, and for wide-ranging contributions that brought innovative research, insight, and synthesis to all aspects of lotic ecosystems for six decades.

ASL TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

ASL EXECUTIVE TELECONFERENCE, TUESDAY 17 FEB 2009

Present: **D.Baldwin, S.Schreiber, R.Marchant, B.Zampatti, R.Thompson, D.Ryder, J.O'Connor, J.Brim Box.**

Apologies: B.Downes, S.Bunn

1. Administration:
(a) S.Schreiber indicated that the increase in ASL fees (which was voted on at the last AGM) will start on July 1. She will advertise this in the next newsletter.
(b) Currently two signatures are required for cheque payments. S.Schreiber suggested this system remain when authorising ASN Events to make payments on behalf of ASL. At present she and R.Marchant (secretary) have signing authority and the executive agreed that these two members should continue in this role.
(c) The ASL currently has various merchant accounts to facilitate payments. S.Schreiber indicated these were no longer needed as ASN had taken over payments and should be closed. This was agreed.
(d) Currently the ASL has 546 members on its books but only 270 have paid fees for the 08-09 year. ASN will be asked to remind the non-payers that fees are due.
(e) Three year memberships should pay the increased fees and it was agreed that no discount would be given for this class of fee.

2. Science meets Parliament (SMP): D.Baldwin noted that ASL could nominate two members to attend. He indicated that he would like to attend and suggested the other place should go to a student member. He will contact P.Laceby (student rep on executive) to see whether he can attend. If he cannot, R.Thompson offered to attend. D.Baldwin will confirm these arrangements in the next few days. He was also keen to have a list of topics to take to SMP: cohesive funding for freshwater research, long term research, multidisciplinary research and the absence of clear career paths for new graduates (particularly PhDs) were suggested.

3. Joint meetings of ASL and other societies: The ASLO meeting proposed for Perth (which ASL had been asked to support) will not now go ahead, although there is a possibility that a bid will be made to hold the 2012 or 2013 meeting in Perth. S.Bunn had proposed that the ASL consider a meeting in 2011 immediately after the River Symposium in Brisbane. This will be the year when ASL hosts a joint congress with the NZ Freshwater Sciences Society. As S.Bunn could not attend this teleconference discussion on such matters was postponed until the next executive meeting.

4. Corporate membership: D.Baldwin wants to encourage this form of membership in which a firm or institute would pay a higher membership fee and be entitled to send a number of delegates to an ASL congress at members' rates. This form of membership exists but it appears that currently there are no corporate members. R.Marchant will investigate the status of this form of membership.

5. Web page: this is now under the control of ASN Events and, although it has yet to be modified, should be visible to members at www.asl.org.au Suggestions for the web page should be emailed to D.Baldwin.

6. 2009 Congress in Alice Springs: Jenny Davis (the chairperson of the organising committee) has met ASN Events (with S.Schreiber and R.Marchant) who will be running the congress for the ASL. Registration will be available on the web site soon and J.Davis has prepared a sponsorship package which has been sent to a few potential sponsors. D.Baldwin will ask P.Laceby (student executive member) to contact J.Davis and J.Brim Box about student involvement in the organisation. A student mixer and a student workshop were both suggested for the 2009 congress, with R.Thompson offering to organise the workshop. J.Brim Box (NT executive member based in Alice Springs) noted that the conference centre had been booked and that members of the Lake Eyre Basin Committee would hold one day of presentations on the first day of the congress. She also indicated that she and J.Davis would like to invite various politicians to open the meeting. D.Baldwin asked her to prepare a letter of invitation which he would sign. S.Bunn has suggested that there could be a session on climate change and freshwater systems.

7. Early Career Award: D.Baldwin suggested that a new name might be sought for this award and asked the executive to consider this for discussion at the next meeting. S.Schreiber suggested that B.Robson and C.Walsh (committee members for this award) should be consulted about this issue. The current committee also includes D.Ryder.

8. ASL medal: the current committee for this award is M.Brock (most recent recipient), D.Baldwin and R.Marchant.

Next teleconference: D.Baldwin would like to hold teleconferences of the executive every three months and suggested 5 May at 12.30pm (EST) for the next one.

The Knee-Jerk Reaction Committee

ASL ARCHIVES

Ed: This is the first of several articles on the history of the society. In the next edition we will launch a blogging facility that will allow you to comment and amend this document – creating a living, evolving account of the history of our society.

HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY

It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him through whom they come!

THE FIRST TEN YEARS – 1961-70

Note: the following material represents two excerpts from the full account which may not be published until the ASL celebrates its 50th birthday in 2012.

Excerpt one: in the beginning ----

In September 1961, **V.H. (Hilary) Jolly, J.S. (John) Lake**, and **J.C.F. (Jim) Wharton** sent out a circular to as many people as they could think of who might be interested in the formation of an Australian "freshwater" [read inland-water] biological association. Those interested were invited to attend a meeting to be held on 21 October 1961 at the Australian National University under the chairmanship of Professor J.D. Smyth (a helpful but "neutral" person not especially interested in freshwater biology). Those who attended this meeting in addition to the three convenors included **Ian Bayly, Edgar Riek, Alan Weatherley** and **Bill Williams**.

This meeting proved to be far more contentious and controversial than any of the "freshwater people" had imagined in advance. A contingent of five people with marine interests quite unexpectedly (just how did they hear about the meeting?!) arrived from the CSIRO Division of Fisheries and Oceanography then located at Cronulla. They included the Deputy Chief of Division, **Dr G.L. Kesteven**, and **Dr J.M. Thomson**. For reasons that were difficult to understand, but probably relating to a perceived intrusion of "foreigners" into their territory, empire and interests, this marine contingent did their best to prevent the formation of an exclusively freshwater association. They wanted instead to form, there and then, at "our" meeting, a marine and freshwater association. It was pointed out to them that it was hardly reasonable to form a broad aquatic science association at a meeting that had been specially convened to consider the formation of a quite different sort of organization.

After some rather bitter wrangling, the freshwater people insisted that the following motion be put to the vote: "An association of persons interested in freshwater biology should be formed and that consideration might (sic) later be given to the incorporation of marine interests." The latter part of the motion was inserted in a concessional effort to ease the tension, but was destined to be stillborn. The motion was carried by only two votes with the Cronulla "mob" voting as a block against it.
It may be noted in passing that the Australian Marine Sciences was founded in May 1963, and it is of interest that Geoff Kesteven and Jim Thomson were elected President and Secretary respectively!

Following our rather difficult birth in Canberra, a meeting of a rather informal steering committee took place at Hilary Jolly's residence at Warragamba Dam on 20 January 1962. The inaugural meeting of the "Australian Society of Limnology" [later the "of" became "for"], as formally constituted, took place at Monash University on 26 May 1962. We were very lucky that **Bernie O'Laughlin** turned up at this meeting. Not only was he a keen fly-fisherman and a prominent member of the Victorian Anglers' Club, but he was also a lawyer. Under his invaluable (and free!) guidance a roughly drafted constitution prepared by the steering committee was quickly and efficiently knocked into good shape at this first meeting before the election of office bearers took place. The officers elected were: **A.G. Nicholls** (President), **J.S. Lake** (Vice-president), **W.D. Williams** (Secretary-Treasurer), **I.A.E. Bayly, V.H. Jolly, E.F. Riek, A.H. Weatherley** and **J.C.F. Wharton** (Committee members). **Alan Weatherley** was also elected Editor of the Newsletter.

It is convenient to now consider the eight people who either turned up at the Canberra meeting or were elected to office at the Monash meeting, or did both, and explore their background and interests. With one notable exception they could be characterized as being either "fish people" or "invertebrate people". It is appropriate to discuss the one exception first because this distinguished biologist – the late **Dr A.G. (Aubrey) Nicholls** – was our first President.

Aubrey Nicholls was the son of the late Professor George E. Nicholls (University of WA 1921-48) who is himself well known to a handful of Australian limnologists for his taxonomic work on that distinctively southern hemisphere group of isopods, the Phreatoicidea. In 1928, after graduating B.Sc. (Hons), Aubrey joined the Great Barrier Reef Expedition led by C.M. Yonge, and lived for a year on Low Island whilst working on corals. In 1929, he travelled to England to do a Ph.D. at University College, London, while working at Plymouth Marine Laboratory on a marine littoral isopod. After obtaining his Ph.D. in 1932, Aubrey joined the staff of the Marine Station at Millport, Scotland. Here he joined forces with S. M. Marshall and A.P. Orr and commenced work on the ecology of a marine calanoid copepod. He authored the first of a series of 13 papers "On the biology of *Calanus finmarchicus*--- " published in the Journal of the Marine Biological Association. Sheina Marshall was one of very few women to be honoured with an FRS. The Marshall and Orr book "The Biology of a Marine Copepod, *Calanus finmarchicus* (Gunnerus)" (1955) incorporated a large amount of Nicholls' work.

Another major research theme initiated by Nicholls during his seven-year stay at Millport was the taxonomy of psammophilous harpacticoid copepods. This work, which was later continued in Australia, is well cited in texts on the fauna and ecology of marine sandy beaches. He was a noted pioneer worker on marine interstitial fauna.

In 1939, Nicholls returned to Australia and consolidated his world reputation as a copepod taxonomist, paying particular, but not exclusive, attention to the Harpacticoida. Publication of much of his work during the early 1940s was held up by WWII, with a consequent flurry of papers from 1944-6. It was during the war years that he also served as President of the Royal Society of WA.

In 1947, Aubrey commenced what was to become a 22-year association with the CSIRO Division of Fisheries and Oceanography. In response to a request from Tasmanian authorities that CSIRO mount a study of trout populations in that State, he moved from Cronulla in May 1949 to establish a laboratory in Hobart. Despite the drastic taxonomic and size change from interstitial harpacticoid copepods, which are amongst the minutest (length less than 1mm!) of invertebrates, to a relatively huge

vertebrate, and a leap from marine to fresh waters, the versatile Aubrey was more than equal to the task. It was during his 12-year stay in Tasmania that he initiated and completed a monumental study on the Tasmanian trout fishery. This work was published in a series of six papers in the Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research (hereafter AJMFR) over the period 1957-61. Amongst other things, this study made a clear case for discontinuing the century-old practice of trying to boost wild populations through the release of hatchery-reared fish; despite the substantial release of marked hatchery fish, they comprised only 2% of the total catch!

In 1961, the Hobart laboratory was closed down, and in 1962 Aubrey and his small group of associates opened a new laboratory in Camberwell, Melbourne. Here, the work, named the "Southern Pelagic Project", was focussed purely on the Australian "Salmon", *Arripis trutta*. The Camberwell laboratory was closed down at the end of 1969 when officially Aubrey retired. However, he continued to work up the "salmon" data until it was published (AJMFR) in 1973.

Aubrey Nicholls died on 14 July 1986 aged 81. A full obituary and eulogy written by Ian Bayly was published in the ASL Newsletter [25(1), 8-14] in February 1987, and to this was added a brief tribute written by P.S. (Sam) Lake. Alan Weatherley noted that: "Aubrey became [the first] President of the ASL not because he had been especially active in its formation, but because he was so well liked and respected as a biologist working on freshwater (and marine) organisms, and was considered easily the most scientifically accomplished person able and willing to represent the new Society."

Excerpt two: one of our more exciting excursions

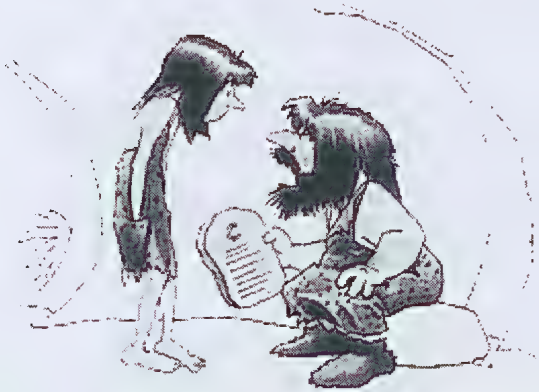
The Brisbane (May 1965) meeting produced an excursion with a difference – the "stuck-bus excursion". Although **Ian Bayly** had left Brisbane "permanently" two months previously, he tried to contribute towards the conference organization from afar, but it was not easy. **Gordon Grigg**, who had just completed his Honours year working on the Queensland lung-fish, had been mentored by Ian Bayly both as an undergraduate and Honours student, and thought he would like to help out. His contribution was to hire a bus for the excursion, and to cut down on costs he offered to drive it himself. Before departing from Brisbane the bus had to collect people from a couple of motels. There was a considerable delay at one of these as a prominent member of the Society was discovered still in his pyjamas and still drunk from the previous night. Mercifully he had at least put on his pyjamas! After this we thought it would be plain sailing, but at about lunch time Gordon got the bus rather firmly stuck between two trees – that's right there was something wrong with Gordon's whiskers that day, and the distance between the trees was somewhat less than he had bargained for! It took about two hours of hard work to extricate the bus using person-power only. Here is **Alan Weatherley's** account of this episode: - "The bus was jammed between two trees at lunch time and we had to push the bloody thing free! It had been a well lubricated lunch and I vividly recall pushing near the front left wheel with several companions and, seeing one of them almost under the wheel, exhorted him to be careful. He, the most pleasant, polite, easygoing and good-natured man imaginable under normal circumstances, now, having well-assuaged his thirst, rose with ruddy and furious face and told me to mind my own bloody business!" Yes, the bodywork of the bus was quite badly damaged, and poor Gordon was left to return it to its owner all by himself!

Despite his singularly undistinguished and mercifully brief career as a bus driver, Gordon later became a very accomplished pilot, which skill he put to good use in extensive and repeated aerial surveys of salt-water crocodiles in the NT. From

Brisbane he went to the University of Sydney to study for a Ph.D. during which time he attended the 1969 Jindabyne Congress to present a paper on seasonal changes in the oxygen affinity of fish blood. He became an outstanding vertebrate eco-physiologist, and after a stint on the staff at Sydney University, took up the Chair of Zoology at the University of Queensland, which position he held for many years until his retirement in 2007. Much of the work that Gordon did on the eco-physiology of crocodiles in NT estuaries was just as much limnology as it was oceanography.

Ian Bayly & Alan Weatherley, January 2009

Ed: Your contributions are invited for 'The ASL History Project' being compiled by ***Andrew Boulton, Ian Bayly, Fiona Mackenzie-Smith, John Harris*** *and* ***Richard Marchant****. Contributions are invited to this section of the newsletter detailing the history of the Society. Contributions should be no more than 1500 words and it would be great if they could be illustrated with photos from the dusty past of ASL. Contributions are due as usual on the 15th of the month of publication.*



"You got a "C" in History?? How hard could it be?"

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Ed: Note that this advert has been edited for length.

ANNOUNCEMENT of SALTON SEA PUBLICATIONS

Two new collections of scientific papers on the Salton Sea, the largest lake in California and one of the world's more dynamic salt lakes have been published recently, one in *Lake and Reservoir Management* and one in *Hydrobiologia*.

Their respective tables of contents are given at the bottom of this message, along with information on how to order the volumes and email addresses of authors for requesting individual papers. *Given certain problems with printing of the volumes, the quality of the individual pdfs is sometimes higher than than will be found in the volumes themselves.*

We also announce an **important 15-page Supplement** to the *LRM* Salton Sea issue that is available as a pdf at http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/salton/2005SymposiumSuppl.pdf on the SDSU Center for Inland Waters website.

That Supplement consists of all the front materials for the LRM volume including the deleted dedication of the special issue by its authors to LRM editor Jim LaBounty and the 6400-word official preface for the issue, titled ***A Symposium and a Lake in Multiple Contexts: A Prefatory Essay on Salton Sea Science and Politics***. The Supplement also includes an essay titled ***Axing Truth***. This is an account why the official preface was omitted from the *LRM* issue.

Persons obtaining a copy of the *LRM* issue should print out the pdf of the Supplement and keep it with their copy. If your library subscribes to *LRM*, you might insert a copy of this supplement inside the Salton Sea issue of *LRM* (vol. 23, no. 5, 2007).

Please forward this announcement to colleagues, decision makers and students who might be interested in the Salton Sea or other salt lakes or the ethical, political and environmental issues raised in **Axing Truth** and the **Official Preface**.

Stuart H. Hurlbert, Editor
Salton Sea Centennial Symposium

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Tables of Contents & Ordering Information
Salton Sea Centennial Symposium, Parts 1 and 2
Email addresses of corresponding authors are given at end of each author list. They will provide to you on request free pdfs of the papers they have authored.

Salton Sea Centennial Symposium, Part 1, S.H. Hurlbert, ghost editor. Lake and Reservoir Management 23(5), 2007. 196 pp. **Price: $20.** To order, contact info@nalms.org.

Preface Stuart H. Hurlbert
Fish and fish-eating birds at the Salton Sea: a century of boom and bust Allen H. Hurlbert, Thomas W. Anderson, Kenneth K. Sturm and Stuart H. Hurlbert: hurlbert@bio.unc.edu
Stratification, sulfide, worms, and decline of the Eared grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) at the Salton Sea, California Thomas A. Anderson, Mary Ann Tiffany and Stuart H. Hurlbert; tanderson@usgs.gov
Coping with multiple stressors: physiological mechanisms and strategies in fishes of the Salton Sea Brian A. Sardella, Victoria Matey and Colin J. Brauner; basardella@ucdavis.edu
Length-weight relations and growth rates of dominant fishes of the Salton Sea and implications for predation by fish-eating birds Ralf Riedel, Lucille M. Caskey and Stuart H. Hurlbert; ralf.riedel@usm.edu
Selenium, arsenic, DDT and other contaminants in four fish species in the Salton Sea, California, their temporal trends and their potential impact on human consumers and wildlife Marie F. Moreau , Janie Surico-

Bennett, Marie Vicario-Fisher, Russell Gerads, Richard M. Gersberg and Stuart H. Hurlbert; dr.frenchy@gmail.com

Decline in springtime abundance of the pileworm *Neanthes succinea* in relation to hydrographic conditions at the Salton Sea, California Deborah M. Dexter, Joan S. Dainer, Paul M. Detwiler, Marie F. Moreau, and Stuart H. Hurlbert; shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

Phytoplankton dynamics of the Salton Sea, 1997-1999 Mary Ann Tiffany, Maria R. González, Brandon K. Swan, Kristen M. Reifel, James M. Watts, and Stuart H. Hurlbert; mtiffany@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

Ciliate plankton dynamics and survey of ciliate diversity in the Salton Sea, 1997-1999 Mary Ann Tiffany, Brandon K. Swan, Glenn F. Gebler, Jeffrey C. Cole, Maria R. González, Kristen M. Reifel, James M. Watts, Eugene B. Small and Stuart H. Hurlbert; mtiffany@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

Dramatic blooms of *Prymnesium* sp. (Prymnesiophyceae) and *Alexandrium margalefii* (Dinophyceae) in the Salton Sea, California Mary Ann Tiffany, Jennifer Wolny, Matthew Garrett, Karen Steidinger and Stuart H. Hurlbert; mtiffany@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

Diffusive flux of selenium between lake sediment and overlying water: assessing restoration alternatives for the Salton Sea Earl R. Byron and Harry M. Ohlendorf; ebyron@ch2m.com

Sulfide irruptions and gypsum blooms in the Salton Sea as detected with satellite imagery, 1979-2006 Mary Ann Tiffany, Susan L. Ustin and Stuart H. Hurlbert; mtiffany@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

Spatial and temporal patterns of transparency and light attenuation in the Salton Sea, California, 1997-1999 Brandon K. Swan, Kristen M. Reifel, Mary A. Tiffany, James M. Watts and Stuart H. Hurlbert; bkswan@umail.ucsb.edu

Salton Sea Centennial Symposium, Part 2, S.H. Hurlbert, guest editor. Developments in Hydrobiologia, vol. 201, 2008. 195pp. **Price: $169.** To order, see the book's webpage at http://www.springer.com/life+sci/ecology/book/978-1-4020-8805-6

Preface Stuart H. Hurlbert

Response in the water quality of the Salton Sea, California, to changes in phosphorus loading: an empirical modeling approach Dale M. Robertson, S. Geoffrey Schladow; dzrobert@usgs.gov

Long-term changes in the phosphorus loading to and trophic state of the Salton Sea, California Dale M. Robertson, S. Geoffrey Schladow, G. Chris Holdren; dzrobert@usgs.gov

Reducing dissolved phosphorus loading to the Salton Sea with aluminum sulfate I.R. Rodriguez, Christopher Amrhein, Michael A. Anderson; christopher.amrhein@ucr.edu

Laboratory studies on the coprecipitation of phosphate with calcium carbonate in the Salton Sea, California I.R. Rodriguez, Christopher Amrhein, Michael A. Anderson; christopher.amrhein@ucr.edu

A linked hydrodynamic and water quality model for the Salton Sea Eu Gene, Chung, S. Geoffrey Schladow, Joaquim Perez-Losada, Dale M.Robertson; gschladow@ucdavis.edu

Barnacle growth rate on artificial substrate in the Salton Sea, California Jeff B. Geraci, Christopher Amrhein, Chris.C. Goodson; christopher.amrhein@ucr.edu

Relating fish kills to upwellings and wind patterns in the Salton Sea Helen Marti-Cardona, T.E. Steissberg, S.Geoffrey Schladow, Simon J. Hook; belen.marti@upc.edu

Properties and distribution of sediment in the Salton Sea, California: an assessment of predictive models Michael A. Anderson, L. Whiteaker, E. Wakefield, and Christopher Amrhein; michael.anderson@ucr.edu

Geochemistry of iron in the Salton Sea, California Jason de Koff, Michael A. Anderson, Christopher Amrhein; christopher.amrhein@ucr.edu

Transport and distribution of trace elements and other selected inorganic constituents by suspended particulates in the Salton Sea basin, California, 2001 Lawrence A. LeBlanc, Roy A. Schroeder; Lawrence.Leblanc@umit.maine.edu

Organochlorine pesticide, polychlorinated biphenyls, metals and trace elements in waterbird eggs from Salton Sea, California, 2004 Charles J. Henny, Thomas W. Anderson, John J. Crayon; charles_j_henny@usgs.gov

Occurrence, distribution and transport of pesticides into the Salton Sea basin, California, 2001-2002 Lawrence A. LeBlanc, Kathryn M. Kuivila; Lawrence.Leblanc@umit.maine.edu

Impacts of perchlorate in the Colorado River on the Salton Sea, California G. Chris Holdren, Kevin Kelly, Paul Weghorst; choldren@do.usbr.gov

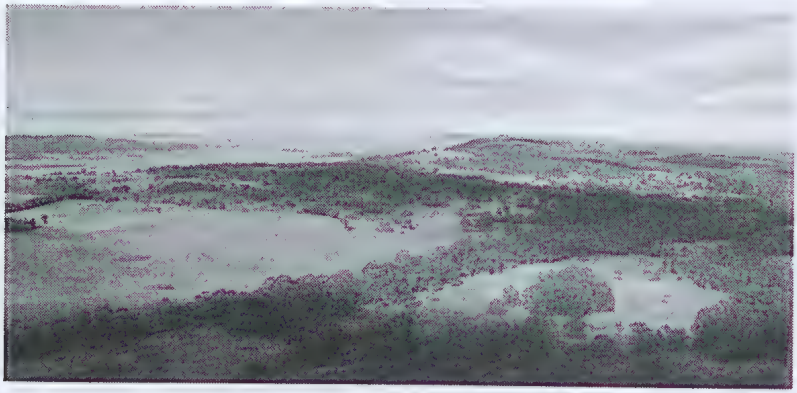
Fundamentals of estimating the net benefits of ecosystem preservation: the case of the Salton Sea Kurt A. Schwabe, Peter W. Schumann, Kenneth A. Baerenklau, Nermin Nergis; kurt.schwabe@ucr.edu

LAKE GEORGE - WEEREEWA. THE ANCIENT STORY

Dr Liz Truswell and **Dr Patrick De Deckker** have prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the geological history and significance of Lake George near Canberra.

This presentation is available as a CD which is being distributed for free. It contains many images with suitable captions and there is also an extensive bibliography. There are even images of ostracods and pollen.

If people are interested in receiving a copy of the CD: "Lake George - Weereewa. The Ancient Story" ISBN 978-0-9756895-4-7, they should send their request by e-mail directly to Judith Shelley at judith@ems.anu.edu.au and give her their postal details.



Member's Musings

A postcard from the country free market

Want good service? Don't hold your breath

It starts with the sweaty, clammy palms. Then your mouth goes dry. The slight shake in your hands turns into violent and uncontrollable shivering. That gnawing feeling in the pit of your stomach turns into a rampant cramp. And finally, you just cower in a corner and give up the will to go on living.

Giving up smoking? Need another hit of whatever? Got a next-day deadline for a report you haven't even started on?

No – it's what happens when you have to ring the phone company (let's call them T******, but you know who I mean) – again!

Moving to a small coastal country town in Victoria is meant to be a relaxing experience. Leaving the hustle and bustle of the big city to a quieter, more relaxing environment. But moving house is a traumatic experience at the best of time, but is nothing when compared to trying to deal with major telecommunication companies.

I have recently moved to Port Fairy, a nice little seaside village some 4 hours away from Melbourne. No, not retirement, just a change of vista, a slowing of pace and a bigger back yard in which to potter while contemplating the next report paragraph.

Wanting to make the work transition as easy as possible, I rang O**** (my previous work phone and internet provider) well in advance to organise the move. "No" (not a word in their vocabulary if you believe their advertising) "We don't have an exchange in Port Fairy, can't help you, you'll have to find another provider."

There only being a T****** exchange in town (actually across the back yard, just the other side of the bowling green), that seemed to be the way to go. Needing a reliable and long term connection, FlyByNight.com internet ISP didn't seem like a good choice (the mayfly as a mascot didn't inspire long-term confidence).

Ring T****** (1). "Yes, fine. We can hook up your new phone and ADSL internet. What we need to do is first connect the phone, only then can we start the process of setting up the ADSL account – no more than a day or two after the phone is connected. We'll connect the phone the day you move in and then send you the free starter pack and modem for your internet." Sounded fine as the first few days would be spent unpacking boxes.

Moving day. All went smoothly. Arrived at the new house, plugged in the phone and presto – dial tone. Rang some-one. Worked fine. This will be easy.

A few days later - no ADSL internet modem pack. Ring T****** (2) on the new home phone line. "Sorry, but that phone isn't connected yet." But I'm talking to you on it. "How odd, there isn't an account for that line – I'll set it up today and in a few days, you will receive your internet pack."

A few days later - no internet pack. Ring T****** (3). "Sorry, but that phone isn't connected yet. Ah, I see the problem. There are 'codes' on the line ..." [no, I have no idea what these are] "... that need to be removed before we can set up the connection. Should be done before the end of today, but can take 48 hours or more."

Hang on a minute. Forget about the ADSL internet. I think I'll go with wireless broadband (I can see the Telstra tower across the back yard, so signal strength

should be good). "Fine sir, I'll cancel the ADSL order and set up a wireless order. In a few days you will receive the free wireless modem. What username do you want associated with that account?"

Ever since the first time I ever began internet use (dial up, ca. 1990), I have used the username *crowdoeg*. I'll have that please. "Certainly".

A few days later - the wireless internet pack turns up. Hooray. Unpack the funny looking modem, put in the self install CD and follow the instructions until it gets to the bit "slide the modem into the slot on your laptop." Ring T****** (4). You've sent the wrong modem. I need one that goes with a PC. "Certainly, we'll send you a USB modem. And a pre-paid envelope that you can send the incorrect modem back to us."

A few days later - the return envelope arrived, but no new modem. Ring T****** (5). "I see the order for the return envelope, but there is no indication that a new modem was ordered." The next few minutes of my conversation has been edited out, as this is a family newsletter and kiddies might just read it and learn some new words that parents might not yet want then to know about. "OK, I think the fastest way around this is to cancel the previous order and set up a new order for a USB modem." Fine, whatever you think is best.

"OK, that order is set up. What username do you want associated with that account?" The same one please. "I'm afraid that username has already been allocated to a previous order, you need a new one." Edited conversation bit again. OK, just stick a "1" at the end of it. "Fine, that order is set up – you will get a USB modem in a few days associated with the username *cowdoeg1*". What? "*cowdoeg1*". Where's the "r"? "Well, *cowdoeg* was the username associated with the original order, and I've just put a 1 after it." But I want the "r"! "Fine, I'll have to set up a new order and cancel the *cowdoeg1* order." Yes, do that while I go and get a strong drink.

"OK, that order is set up. You will get a USB modem in a few days associated with the username *crowdoeg* – I took the liberty of using your original username – the one that you first wanted." Thank you – a positive outcome at last.

A few days later – two modems showed up! One for a laptop and one – hooray – a USB modem. Plug it in. Loading drivers and software .... establishing connection ... connected .... please register your modem with your username and password. *crowdoeg*. Invalid username or pass word – please contact Telstra technical services. Ring T****** (6). "Try re-booting your computer ..... Now pull out the modem and put it in again ..... Mmmm, not sure what is wrong ..... Tell you what, turn off the computer, wait 20 minutes and try again." Even I know that's technical code speak for "I don't have a clue what's going on, but when you ring back you will get another customer service specialist".

Nothing worked. Until I tried registering with the cancelled *cowdoeg1* username. Welcome to the wonderful world of T****** Bigpond Wireless Broadband.

Ring T****** (7). "Mmmm, it appears the USB was associated with the cancelled username and the laptop modem is probably associated with your correct username. That's funny." Not a sentiment I totally agreed with at that point. "Sorry, but we can't change that. I'll set up another order for a new USB modem. What username do you want associated with that account?" Lost my old faithful username – gone forever. How about *crowe.doeg*? "Fine. Just keep using the *cowdoeg1* for now and ring to cancel it when you have the new one up and running."

A few days later – a USB modem. Try to register with *crowe.doeg*. Invalid username or pass word. Ring T****** (8). "I'll just re-set your password and it should work. Try

registering with the new password in 10 minutes." Technical code speak for "If it doesn't work, when you ring back you will get another customer service specialist

Ten minutes later .... I reckon "Hallelujah" is probably the most overworked song of the decade – every-one seems to be doing a version. But I swear I could hear it when I typed in the username and new password and hit return. Finally ..... on line (if you have sent something to any old address and had no reply, try crowe.doeg@bigpond.com and I should be here). Phew, only one more job to do.

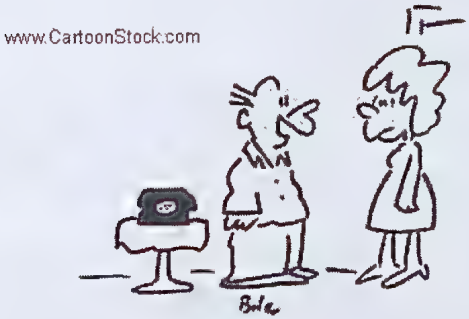
Ring T****** (9). I'd like to cancel the old *cowdoeg1* account please. "Certainly". OK, but I have two wrong modems here. "Don't worry, just write our pre-paid address on the front of the original package and send it back. No need for a return bag to be sent." Sent the modems back the next day.

A few days later – a pre-paid return bag arrived. I threw it in the bin.

Moral of the story. That simple act all took about 35 days to get through. Imagine what will happen if they get their hands on the super-speed extra-complicated National Broadband Network? Actually, the same goes for all of them – if there's time one day, I'll tell you about O**** (phone) and O***** (electricity). But the shaking in my hands just thinking about it prevents me from typing any further.

Tim Doeg

Ed: I am pleased to see Tim Doeg in good form ... and strangely depressed by the fact that I have a similar story... perhaps we should form a support group??



"It's a new record — I switched long-distance companies eleven times today."

REPORTS FROM THE TRENCHES

MONASH FRESHWATER ECOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP, SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The times are a'changin' at Monash with the arrival of **Professor Jenny Davis** from Murdoch University to lead our Freshwater Research Group. Jenny has hit the ground running with two new Honours students; **Melissa Klamt** (co-supervised with **Ross Thompson**, studying the trophic dynamics of platypus) and **Tara D'Arcy** working on urban wetlands. They will be joined in this Honours cohort by **Ross Thompson's** new students **Kate Stevenson** (ecosystem impacts of toxins in urban streams) and **Jennie Hellyer** (cosupervised by **Elisa Raulings** and **Kay Morris**, effects of flow on plant propragules). **Jill Lancaster** will be joining us in July as a lecturer in aquatic ecology.

Ross Thompson's ARC Linkage addressing the effects of carbon farming on streams has been recruiting with research fellows **Shaun Cunningham** and **Jim Thomson** joining the team for the project start in July. The NZ Marsden Fund supported project on habitat compression has also gained a post-doc, with **Peter McHugh** moving from Utah State University to join the team (**Ross Thompson** and **Angus McIntosh**).

Paul Reich, **Tim Cavagnaro** and **Sam Lake** continue their MDBA-funded work on the effects of riparian revege on lowland streams, ably assisted by the ongoing work of **Matt Johnson** and **Thomas Daniel** and assorted others at various times. **Damien McMaster** together with Paul, Sam and Nick continue to work on the Broken-Boosey system.

Elisa Rawlings and **Kay Morris** have broken the back of the field component of their ARC Linkage project on wetland plant dispersal (with Ross and **Ralph Mac Nally**), assisted by Honours students **Johanna Laurant.** Elisa and Kay have been spending some quality time with waterfowl gut contents and faeces looking for plant propagules – interesting work but no one will sit beside them in the tearoom any more.

We congratulate **Beth Wallis'** (**Sam Lake**) on the conferral of her PhD; Beth has made the move to the big city and is working as a research associate at The University of Melbourne. Ex-Honours student **Darren Gilling** (Thompson/Reich) has been working with **Nick Bond** on a range of projects. **Karen Cooper** (Sam Lake, Ralph Mac Nally and Gerry Quinn) is in the final stages of her ISC study, but will shortly head off overseas with her new husband to live in the US (congratulations Karen). **Susie Ho** (Bond/Thompson) has been in the midst of picking samples and SIA processing of her food webs from the Ovens floodplain pools, and has just set up a long-term experiment investigating interactions between carp gudgeon and Gambusia. **Mardiana Ali** (Thompson/Grace) and **Sam Imberger** (Thompson/Grace) are both in the middle reaches of their PhDs, with ambitious field programs planned. **Elise King** is continuing her thesis work under the supervision of Ross, Sam and Paul. Downstream (REALLY downstream) effects of urbanization on streams have been in Ross' thoughts lately, with **Alissa Monk** commencing her PhD work on mercury contamination of dolphins in Port Phillip Bay.

Ross Thompson

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT

The CEM welcomes **Keely Mills** from the UK as the post doc on the Land and Water Australia grant on drought history held by **Peter Gell, Peter Kershaw** (Monash) and **Paul Leahy** (EPA). She is steadily working her way through a high resolution record from Lake Colac with a view to a reconstruction of lake salinity over the last 500 years. Keely will present preliminary results to the International Paleolimnology Conference in Mexico in June on the way back to Loughborough to defend her PhD on climate change lake records from Uganda. **Rosie Grundell** has taken on part time honours to go with her lab duties and will work on the AINSE grant to Peter on 200 years of River-wetland interactions near Blanchetown. The CEM recently hosted Tri Soeprobowati (Diponegoro University, Java) who managed to process most of her samples from Rawa Pening lake and visit Lucas Heights to date the sediments under another AINSE grant to Peter. **Peter Gell** has just returned from the 3rd Limpacs "salinity, Climate Change and Salinisation" meeting in Chandigarh, and is commencing work on a UB-Deakin collaborative grant on modern and palaeo approaches to estuarine condition assessment with **Brad Mitchell** and **Adam Pope** (Deakin). The Centre also welcomes **Phuong Doan** who has come with a Vietnamese Government scholarship to work on biogeochemical approaches to understanding wetland change.

Peter Gell

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

In our last missive almost a year ago, a monumental stable isotopes survey across the Mitchell, Fitzroy and Daly River catchments was about to begin to get a picture of aquatic food web structure across the tropics during the early dry season. Much to everyone's surprise the survey did actually happen and about 70 sites were visited across the 3 catchments. **Dan Warfe, Ian Dixon** and **Dom Loong** were joined by **Neil Pettit** (UWA) and spent most of June and July out in the field in the Daly and Fitzroy, where on numerous occasions they were able to work with local Aboriginal communities. **Brad Pusey** (Griffith) and **Quentin Allsop** (NT Fisheries) joined us in the Daly to conducted another season of sampling for the Daly Fish and Flows Project, while **Paul Close** and **Dave Tunbridge** (UWA) tested out their shiny new electrofishing boat in the Fitzroy. **Steve Hamilton** from Michigan State Uni also came out to collect water quality samples from waterholes. With the hundreds of samples collected from this survey we're all waiting in breathless anticipation for the samples to be processed and to see the results.

Dom Loong has since returned to ACTFR at JCU in Townsville but has been ably replaced by **Peter Kyne** who has been snaffled from the world of chondrichthyan ecology to get his head around tropical freshwater biota and unidirectional flows. Peter has joined the sampling effort on seasonal changes to tropical food webs, trophic subsidies and flow cues for biotic movement being conducted in the Daly by **Dougo, Dan, Neil** and **Erica Garcia**. We are all beginning to understand why nobody works in rivers in the wet season. Erica has arrived from the US to work with Dougo on top-down control of food webs in small streams and is gearing up for a dry season

of playing with electric fences and batteries. She will be helped by **Peter Novak** who has just started with us after some time at WA DoW and a stint in China.

Simon Townsend and **Andrew Raith** have been busily sampling algal biomass in first order streams to investigate their contribution to catchment productivity during the wet season. And Simon is also coordinating the Framework for Assesment of River and Wetland Health in the Top End. He is joined by **Ian Dixon** and **Ruth Duncan** (recently of Kununurra, and before that, Victoria) to do the NT work, and **Paul Close** and **Dave Tunbridge** will take care of the WA side of things. Ian and Ruth are also planning a big season of fieldwork this coming dry. **Lyz Risby**, originally from SA but soon to return south, has also been working with Simon and is winding up her work developing a water quality framework for the Daly River catchment.

The other big news since our last dispatch was hosting **Professor Bob Naiman** from the University of Washington for the Coast to Coast Conference in Darwin and a workshop on the Daly River. Dougo, Dan, Erica and Ian, along with Neil Pettit (UWA), **Stuart Bunn** (Griffith) and **Steve Hamilton** (Michigan State), took Bob down to the Daly to discuss various research on food webs and flows in tropical rivers, and to take him fishing NT-style. Awards went to Stuart for the first barramundi caught, to Erica, Dan and Bob for their first barra, to Ian for the biggest keeper barra, and to Steve for finding crocodile teeth. Definitely one of the highlights was watching Ian fall off the boat into saltie-infested waters and haul himself back into the boat so quick he didn't even get wet – minus Dougo's $400 fishing rod. With Dougo telling him to get right back in there and get it, it seemed the greater concern was for the safety of his rod than that of his research fellow. Much amusement was provided for all by the sight of **Dougo** having to reef in all the line off his reel, eventually retrieving his rod from the depths and holding it aloft in victory.

Finally, **Dougo** continues to steer the TRaCK ship through monsoonal waters, having spent much of his time finalising research agreements with the Kimberley and Northern Land Councils and the Mitchell Catchment Group, putting together publications, redeveloping the website, hosting field trips for the TRaCK board and various workshops for TRaCK researchers and visitors, and even managing to get out in the field on occasion.

Dan Warfe.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

As autumn sets in on the Tablelands and leaves yellow and fall into streams to rot and deoxygenate the water, we prepare for our winter fieldwork in the warm subtropical streams on the coast. Since last edition we have waved goodbye to a number of postgraduates with **Rob Veal, Moya Tomlinson, Phil Morris, Caitlin Johns** and **Rob Rolls** all handing in their theses. We have also welcomed **Morag Stewart** from Melbourne who has taken on a PhD with Darren looking at the influence of riparian vegetation on lateral and longitudinal processing of nutrients in upland streams of the Gwydir Valley. There is also a scholarship currently available for a project in the Namoi Valley that aims to model links between hydrology and contaminant storage and transport – send those applications in!

On the tablelands, **Sarah Mika** and **Darren Ryder** continue to develop 'best-practice' guidelines for stream restoration in rural towns, where the impacts of rural and urban inputs create a unique set of issues for restoration. As part of this project, honours students **James Ruprai** and **Hayden Hopley** are exploring the role of deciduous riparian trees in stream biogeochemistry and physical-chemical barriers to restoring instream vegetation, respectively.

To the west of the divide, **Debbie Burgis** has finalized her fieldwork collecting biogeochemical data for an eco-hydraulic model that aims to link instream habitat inundation to river ecological processes in the Gwydir River. **Peter Berney** has headed further west (out past Moree) to examine the effects of inundation and grazing on floodplain vegetation after a series of environmental flow release to the Gwydir marshes. On the coast, **Ben Wolfenden** and **Sarah Mika** are approaching submission of their theses examining the restoration of biogeochemical cycles in the Hunter River in response to large-scale replanting and introduction of engineered log jams. **Sally Maxwell** has also put large boxes of bug jars behind her and begun the complex task of data analysis and compiling her thesis on the response of invertebrate communities to environmental flow releases in coastal rivers.

Glenn Wilson has recently returned from a visit to South Africa where he was involved in running an 8-day course on fish research methods in Botswana. The course covered field sampling for adult and juvenile fish (not crocodiles and hippos) as well as lab techniques for aging, and is the first of a number of courses that Glenn will be involved with during the year.

Darren Ryder

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR TROPICAL FRESHWATER RESEARCH, JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, TOWNSVILLE

Colton Perna has left ACTFR to take up a PhD scholarship at Griffith University comparing fish communities between in-channel and off-channel lagoons of the Mitchell River.

Eric Wolanski hosted **Jonathan Lambrechts** from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, working on establishing the SLIM hydrographic model. The SLIM model in a one-million variable-sized grid point that can model the entire Great Barrier Reef with grids as small as 200m (if you have enough computing power).

Eric Wolanski and **George Lukacs** hosted **Bob Costanza** from Vermont and organised a workshop, attended by 70 people, on evaluating ecosystem services of the Great Barrier Reef. A further workshop and atelier with Bob and his team are planned shortly.

We had a huge wet season up here this year, breaking many records. **Zoe Bainbridge, Steve Lewis** and **Aaron Davis** have spent the wet season running around the catchments sampling floodwaters from a variety of catchments. This is the fifth year of this program. The research is variously determining which catchments produce the most sediment and nutrient export

Aaron Davis and **Matthew Knott** spent two weeks in December surveying the fish of the Belyando-Suttor catchment in north-central Queensland, probably the largest unsurveyed river system remaining in Queensland. The waterholes there are highly turbid (secchi depths usually <10cm) and the fish community (16 native species, plus three others) a little less than occurs in other parts of the Burdekin system (of this is a part).

Damien Burrows

WATER STUDIES CENTRE, MONASH UNIVERSITY

It's been a time of dramatic change in the post-graduate student population in the WSC! **Dr Belinda Lovell** had her thesis on "Phosphorus Sources, Forms and Mobility in the Latrobe Catchment" passed in October 2008. Belinda was supervised by Barry Hart & Ian McKelvie. Earlier this month, **Katrina Lansdown** submitted her PhD "Biogeochemistry of nitrate in headwater streams and atmospheric deposition of the Dandenong Ranges". Katrina was supervised by **Mike Grace** and **Ian Cartwright.** Two MSc students have also submitted their theses: **Sarah Alexander** (Grace, McKelvie) studied the impacts of the 2003 alpine bushfires on the Dartmouth Reservoir catchment and the Tambo River while **Chamindra Vithana** looked at the relationship between nutrient flux and microbial activity in the sediments of the Ornamental Lake in the Royal Botanic Gardens here in Melbourne. Counteracting the exodus of wonderful students is the introduction of new people: **Todd Scicluna** (Grace) is starting his BSc(Hons) project looking at sulfate reduction and methanogenesis in the sediments of the Ornamental Lake (following on from some of Chamindra's work); **Wei Wen Wong** is starting her PhD (Grace, Cook) looking at using stable isotopes of N and O to unravel nitrogen cycling in the nitrate rich Werribee River estuary; and **Yassir Arafat** (Grace, Cook) will be investigating the biogeochemical transformations of nutrients in an agricultural catchment as part of the ARC Discovery Project (2009-2012) jointly run by **Mike Grace**, colleagues in Civil Engineering at Melbourne University (Western, Adams, Weatherley) and **Jeff McDonnell** at Oregon State University. Meanwhile **Sam Imberger** (Grace, Thompson) is currently attending a master class for winners of a scholarship provided by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. This week-long workshop is probably a relief for Sam as she has been extremely busy collecting data from her field sites in the east of Melbourne. **Mardiana Ali** (Grace, Thompson) is also hard at work examing the interrelationships between nutrient biogeochemistry, Typha and aquatic foodwebs. Mardiana has just started her controlled trial of the effects of Typha harvesting in the Jock Marshall experimental reserve here on the Clayton Campus. It was great to recently catch up with **Shane Perryman** (Hart, Grace, Rees) on a flying visit to Melbourne from his new home in Makassar, Indonesia. Shane and his wife **Sulfikar** (Hart, Grace) are both finishing off the writing of their respective theses while also finding time to commit to their jobs at the Universitas Negeri Makassar.

Mike Grace

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